

AUGUST 2020 AWARDS MONTHLY

1. Bronze Wreath of Merit: Officer John M. Maier #2443

The abovementioned officer was nominated for their efforts in response to follow-up he conducted on larceny to auto cases where victim's cars were broken into and financial losses were discovered as a result of the break-ins.

Officer Maier is assigned as a Community Policing Officer in the Patrol East Bureau. He routinely follows up on case reports that involve unknown or unidentified suspects. He enjoys researching cases, finding video surveillance and following leads. He often takes video stills or photos of unidentified suspects in order to get them identified.

In March and April of 2020, Officer Maier conducted follow-up on several larceny from auto cases in which losses included cash, credit cards, purses, cell phones, etc. Officer Maier made contact with the victims in the cases and asked if there were charges made on the credit cards after they were stolen. When the victims responded with the names of the business and locations in which the cards were used, Officer Maier reached out to those businesses and requested video during the timeframe in which the charges occurred. Officer Maier then asked the Public Information Officers to post video stills of the suspects in question on to the Wichita Police Department's Facebook page in order to ask the public for assistance in identifying the suspects in question. Several responses were received identifying both a female and a male suspect. Additionally, Officer Maier had sent an internal email containing video stills of the suspects in question and within minutes had a response from another officer identifying a third suspect involved in the larceny from auto cases.

In April of 2020, Officer Maier received a tip on the location of the three suspects and learned that they were staying at a motel on South Broadway. Officer Maier and several other officers at off the motel and observed two of the three suspects leave the room and get into a green truck. They were arrested without incident. They then located the third suspect in the room. A search warrant was drawn on both the room and truck. Both were filled with property belonging to victims that had not yet reported it stolen. Officer Maier interviewed all three suspects on scene and obtained confessions on several of the cases he was working that involved the suspects.

Officer Maier connected two of the three suspects to twenty (20) separate cases of burglary to auto and unlawful use of financial cards. He presented many of these cases to the city prosecutor for drug, drug paraphernalia, possession of stolen property and numerous counts of unlawful use of financial cards. He obtained State charges for burglary to auto and theft and he worked with an ATF Special Agent for one of the suspect's involvement in the theft of 8 firearms and the theft of ammunition from a vehicle.

Officer Maier received a Bronze Wreath of Merit for his efforts in the investigation of these cases.